During the year there was some friction between the Nayar and the Ealava communities which created a good deal of ill-feeling and led to some breaches of the peace, though not of a serious nature. This ill-feeling has happily subsided owing to the influence of the better disposed among the two classes.

7. **Judicial Department.**—Dewan Bahadur C. Vencobachariar having retired from the office of Chief Justice of the High Court, Mr. T. Sadasiva Aiyer B. A., M. L., whose services were lent to the State by the Madras Government, was appointed to the office.

Criminal Justice.—The number of Civil and Criminal Courts remained the same as in the year preceding *viz.* 28 and 66 respectively. The District Magistrate's Court at Alleppey was abolished and its territorial limits added to the Quilon Magisterial District.

The number of offences reported and returned as true was 19,572 and 17,434, showing a decrease of 4,187 and 912 respectively as compared with the figures for the previous year. The decline was mainly in offences under special and local laws. 1,530 appeals were preferred to the District Magistrates. 126 cases affecting 323 persons were tried and disposed of by the Sessions Courts.

Civil Justice.—The volume of original litigation remained almost the same. the institutions aggregating 40,313 against 40,589 in the year preceding. The disposals of the Munsiffs amounted to 40,241 and of the District Courts to 478 suits. The number of appeal cases fell from 3,077 to 2,945.

The arrears at the close of the year are reported to have risen in all the grades of Civil Courts; original suits, Munsiffs' Courts from 9,197 to 9,628 and District Courts, 416 to 519 and appeals, District Courts from 1,216 to 1,475 and High Court, 318 to 485. It has thus become highly necessary to concert measures to relieve the congestion of arrears noticeable in the Civil Courts in the interests alike of the litigant public and the Courts themselves. The Bill recently introduced to amend the Civil Courts Regulation when brought into operation will it is expected conduce to better results being shown as regards arrears in the Civil Courts.

8. **Jails.**—The number of admissions to the Central Prison, Trivandrum was 616, of whom 523 were convicts. Of the 23 juvenile prisoners admitted during the year 3 were formerly pupils of the Reformatory. The health of the prisoners was very satisfactory, the number of deaths being only 9 or 1·82 per cent, the lowest on record for the last 12 years. All executions are now conducted within the premises of the Central Prison. As it is desirable that the resources of the Central Prison should be utilised as far as possible to meet the requirements of the State Departments, Heads of Departments have recently been requested to place with the Superintendent all orders for articles which they require and which are manufactured in the Central Prison. The net profit from the Jail industries during the year was nearly Rs. 9,000, showing a considerable increase over that of the previous year, Rs. 6,082.

9. **Registration.**—The number of Registration offices remained the same as in last year *viz.*, 51. The total number of instruments presented for

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registration exceeded 1,86,000, showing an increase of 6,258 over the preceding year. Of the total registrations 97 per cent related to immovable property. The number of wills registered rose from 190 to 205. It is satisfactory to note that in spite of the large number of instruments registered, as many as 98·8 per cent were registered on the day of presentation.

10. **Joint-Stock Companies.**—26 Companies were registered during the year against 6 in 1079. One of these, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is maintained by voluntary contributions. The number of companies registered with capital divided into shares increased from 5 to 10. This is encouraging. The registration of so many as 15 companies for mutual help at times of marriages and deaths is also a noteworthy fact.

11. **Military.**—The permanent lines of the Company of the 1st Battalion at Pangode which were under construction were completed and handed over early in the year. A set of rules for the punishment of crime in the Nayar Brigade was passed under Regulation VI of 1079.

12. **Forests.**—The total area of forests reserved up to the end of the year was 2,245 square miles. Including the area of reserved lands, about 2,550 square miles or nearly one-third of the area of the whole State is under reservation. An area of 311 acres was added to the Teak plantations, the total area now being 2,225 acres. The Government Para Rubber plantations at Vamanapurom, Malayattur and Rani are reported to be doing well. As private rubber plantations are springing up and numerous applications for land for rubber cultivation are coming in, it is not considered necessary to add to the area of the experimental cultivation.

Endeavours are being made to provide grazing grounds and lands for other communal purposes in the several villages. Suggestions have also been received from the Acting Conservator of Forests for granting suitable lands for paddy cultivation in certain reserves where such grants would not be detrimental to forest conservation. Definite schemes have yet to be formulated, and the matter is receiving the careful consideration of Government.

Over 9,80,000 cubic feet of timber, excluding firewood, were removed from the forests during the year. Lemon grass was declared to be a reserved produce, and the industry connected with it is rising in importance. There is a great demand for the oil in the European markets.

Seven elephants were captured during the year. The rules for the up-keep of trained elephants, which were tentatively sanctioned for one year, were finally passed.

The organisation and working of this Department, which controls nearly a third of the area of the State, require improvement in different directions. It is proposed to hold a Conference on Forest matters shortly when proposals for working the Department on a sound basis will be taken up for consideration.

13. **Cardamom and other Produce.**—The Cardamom crops amounted to 20,432 tulams against 8,268 in the previous year, showing a considerable increase in the yield. But the average price is reported to have fallen from Rs. 12 to Rs. 8 per tulam, making it impossible for

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